

“The Ties That Bind”

by
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What A slice of life scene in which a young working mom picks up her children at Nana’s after her work shift.

Themes: Motherhood, Guilt, Family Generations, Dramedy, Mother’s Day, Grandparent’s Day

Who Mom (20’s-30’s)
Nana (50’s- 60’s)

When Present

Costumes and Props Mom wears work clothes (office or medical practice smock).
Nana is dressed for comfort- jeans, tennis shoes, button down shirt with the sleeves partially rolled up.

Needlework
Child’s backpack
Pull-up diaper
Small toy
Child’s sweatshirt

Why Eph. 6:2; 2 Tim 1:5; Hebrews 10:21-24

How The scene is played for realism. After an undoubtedly difficult day at work where Mom is questioning her choices, she arrives to find her mother at peace, enjoying all of the things she had hoped to enjoy as a mom. Today the frustration and sadness and guilt and jealousy all come to a head as Mom finally opens up to Nana about her struggles. For her part, Nana is a strong, capable, no-nonsense woman, with a heart of gold and great compassion for her daughter.

Time Approximately 3-4 minutes

As the scene opens, **Nana** is sitting quietly doing needle work. **Mom** enters hurriedly, still in "work" mode.

Mom: Hi Mom, where are the kids?

Nana: They're watching a video in the den.

Mom: Did Ben finish his homework sheet first?

Nana: No. But he did help me make the popcorn.

Mom: Oh, Mom!

Nana: I'm the Grandma. If I want to spoil them a little, that's my prerogative.

Mom: *(sigh)* What movie are they watching?

Nana: Bedknobs and Broomsticks.

Mom: I told you I didn't want them watching that movie because of the witchcraft and magic.

Nana: I let you watch it when you were their age and it didn't seem to hurt you.

Mom: Mom! Pastor Mike was just talking about...we just... *(she thinks better of further chastising her mom and drops the subject)* Never mind. *(Mom starts collecting the kids' things and putting them into the backpack. Noticing the pull-ups, she pulls one out)* Mom, there are still two new pull-ups in here.

Nana: Yes, Kathryn's been using the potty all day.

Mom: That's wonderful! *(starting to head off towards the den)* I better go give my girl a great big hug and kiss!

Nana: I told her what a big girl she was, and I gave her that Princess Barbie I was saving for a special occasion.

Mom: *(returning quickly)* What?!! Mom, David and I were going to get her a Princess Barbie for her birthday.

Nana: Oh really? I'm sorry, Honey. Do you want me to take mine back?

Mom: Mom, you can't take...never mind.

Nana: *(recognizing that Mom is upset, Nana tries to smooth over the edges with a quick change of subject)* The cutest thing happened today when Kathryn and I picked up Benny at Kindergarten... Nancy and Susan were

there too...and Kathryn said, "I pee-peed in the potty wike Pwincess Bawbie!"

Mom: Who are Nancy and Susan?

Nana: A couple of the other moms from Benny's class. I've told you about them; sometimes we meet and have little picnic lunches and let the kids play together in the park before school.

Mom: Oh isn't that special? And I'm sure they just have so much in common with you.

Nana: What's that supposed to mean?

Mom: You're not Ben's mom; you're his grandmother. You've gotta be kidding yourself if you think those two women think of you as their friend.

Nana: It just so happens they do! They call me for advice and they appreciate me. Too bad I can't say the same thing about you.

Mom: I appreciate you!

Nana: Oh really? And that's why you come barging in here day after day, criticizing my decisions and rolling your eyes like you have so much to put up with! Hey, I'm watching your kids for you free of charge. I don't have to do this, you know.

Mom: Mom! I ...*(pause)* I'm really sorry. *(near tears at finally admitting this hard truth)* You're right to tell you the truth. I am so jealous of you right now I can't see straight, but that's no reason to take out my frustration on you.

Nana: *(crossing to comfort her daughter)* Oh, Honey...

Mom: Let me finish... You know how long we prayed for children... And finally a miracle-- God answered our prayers! And now... it's killing me that I can't stay home to raise them. David and I never expected that I would need to keep working this long...

Nana: Join the club. I thought after my 4th child left the nest, I was done forever with potty-training and mud pies.

Mom: I wanted to be there for their first steps... their first words... their first playdates ... I wanted to watch them make discoveries in the garden, and feel their joy the first time they helped bake cookies... I feel like such a failure as a mom.

Nana: You are NOT a failure. You are a warm, nurturing, wonderful woman who fills those children with love and confidence.

Mom: I know... but when Kathryn called you Nana before she called me Mama...

Nana: Honey, you've already taught those babies the most important lesson there is! *(the advocate tears up)* I lose it every time Benny and Kathryn bust out singing "Jesus loves me." *(a small pause as she collects herself)* Besides, you didn't let me finish my story from today... After Kathryn shared her news about the potty, Nancy was saying how pretty Princess Barbie was and Kathryn says, "My mommy's pwettier than Pwincess Bawbie and she helps people at wowk".

Mom: Really? She said that? *(Nana nods and smiles)* Thanks, Mom. *(Mom wipes her eyes and smiles. Then she picks up the backpack and calls to the kids as she exits toward the den)* Kathryn! Benny! Mommy's here! Let's thank Nana for the great day and get ready to go home!

Lights out.

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